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GIFTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY FROM PAGE 23

HOMES FOR SALE FROM PAGE 35



SEE MOODY BLUES TRIBUTE PAGE 31

KITESURFER DIES IN SEA WALL CRASH

A SOUTHEND kitesurfer has died after crashing into a sea wall in high winds.

Mark Paxton suffered fatal injuries when he was blown back from the foreshore at Ray Creek, Point Clear, St Osyth, on Sunday at around 10.30am. He was with several fellow surfers from Southend.

It is believed Mr Paxton – one of the most experienced kitesurfers in Essex – had just returned to the shore to change kites and was relaunching into the water when the tragedy happened.

Friends and fellow kiters paid tribute to Mr Paxton, who was described as an "exceptionally proficient" boarder.

Simon Mudd, 52, chairman of the Essex Kitesurfers' Club, said many people were still in shock.

"Mark stood out as a lovely guy, who was an extremely talented kitesurfer.

● Turn to page14



OPEN WATER: Kitesurfers at Southend
Photo © www.wildessex.com

Jodie prepares to pile on the miles for charity

A DAY service manager is to run the London Marathon for charity.

Jodie Sharp is training for the 26-mile race in April to raise cash for Rett UK.

Jodie, 30, said: "As a carer I was lucky enough to spend lots of time with a lady, that I grew very fond of. Alison had lived with Rett syndrome and was profoundly disabled.

"My friend passed away at the start of November. The night I heard this sad news I contacted Rett UK to see if I could run the London Marathon for them.

"I wanted to run for Alison, to raise awareness of the condition she lived with, to raise vital funds for the charity and ultimately to celebrate my friend's life."

Rett syndrome is a rare brain disorder that can cause a person to need lifelong 24/7 care.

Jodie aims to raise £3,000 and has already collected almost £1,400. If you want to help, visit https://www.justgiving.com/Jodie-Sharp.



MARATHON: Jodie Sharp

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A127 CROSSINGS CHAOS

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

HORSE riders campaigning for a crossing on the A127 at Progress Road, Leigh, have criticised roads chiefs following a fatal collision.

Joseph Sheridan, 13, from Wickford, died following a collision with a BMW shortly after 8pm last Monday, February 15, on the A127 at Basildon.

There have been more than 10 fatalities on the A127 in the last 10 years, and the British Horse Society has demanded that bridges or underpasses are built for horses, pedestrians and cyclists.

The society's Essex Access officer Marlene Curtis has been campaigning for a crossing at Progress Road for more than 10 years.

She said: "Years ago horse riders could cross the A127 and spend hours using the bridleways over the north side. Essex County Council has a statutory duty to facilitate access along these historic highways, but riders and pedestrians are now being denied access. That is not acceptable."

A rally of ramblers and horse riders will be held on Tuesday morning at Rushbottom Lane, North Benfleet, where the bridleway meets the A127. They have criticised Essex Council for failing to ensure walkers and horse-riders can cross the busy road.

Last week's fatal collision occurred close to the A127's junction with Oak Lane, where a public right of way is interrupted by the busy road.

A day after Joseph Sheridan's death, campaigners closed the A127 in both directions with parked cars, calling for a footbridge to be installed at the right of way.

An online petition has now been launched, attracting more than 500 signatures. It was set up by Michael Coates, who lost two friends – Leearna Briggs, who was pregnant, and Shara Stone – when they were involved in a fatal collision on the same stretch of road in 2003.



HORSE SENSE: Marlene Curtis (centre) from the British Horse Society Campaign for a Pegasus Horse Crossing at the junction of the Fairway Leigh and the A127, Leigh. Lynn Hammond is on Polo, Christine Snow on Lucy Lou





SIGNS OF THE TIMES: (left) A sign at the site points out the continued right of way opposite Oak Lane, but (right) Essex Council has erected signs telling people not to use it

He said: "With the amount of life this road has claimed, we urgently need new safe crossings."

The Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society have backed calls for new A127 crossings.

A high fence which prevents walkers from crossing the A127 ends at the Oak Lane right of way, where gaps enable crossing, and a sign at the site states that there is a public footpath.

However, instead of ensuring residents can use the right of way, County Hall has erected signs instructing people not to use it.

Essex Council's website says it has 'a statutory duty to maintain and protect' public rights of way.

It adds: "It is illegal to obstruct a public right of way."

Asked why it was failing to ensure the right of way was accessible, a council spokesman said that while the law requires it to provide a crossing, if a public right of way is interrupted by a motorway, there is no legal requirement to provide a crossing if it is interrupted by an A-road.

Access campaigners claimed the law existed because it is impossible to cross a motorway, whereas it is usually possible to cross an A-road.

However, they said increasing congestion on the A127 in recent years meant it was almost impossible to cross, with more than a dozen legal rights of way now blocked, preventing walkers and horse-riders from accessing large areas of countryside.

Ramblers Association spokeswoman Katherine Evans said: "Swathes of Essex are becoming linear no-go areas due to the impossibility of crossing our older major roads like the A127. We would like to see a review of minor road and public footpath and bridleway crossings on the A127 and other major roads that have become impossible to use.

"We realise there isn't money for foot, cycle and bridleway bridges everywhere, but priority should be given to crossings near where people live, go to school and work."

Campaigners said they feared Essex Council would simply close the rights of way instead of observing their legal duty to maintain and protect them.

A March 2014 report by Essex and Southend councils, titled 'A127 – Corridor for Growth – An Economic Plan', stated: "There are 12 locations where public rights of way cross the A127, from the M25 up to the Southend boundary. There are no controlled crossing points.

"Pedestrians wishing to cross the A127 have to either use signalised crossing points at junctions or cross the live carriageway at specified at-grade locations – for example, where there are gaps in the central reserve safety fence.

"It is suggested that each crossing point is examined and improvements considered, or, preferably, the crossing point removed completely."

The report added that three footbridges crossing the A127 in Southend were not legally compliant as they were not accessible for disabled people.

Asked to respond to campaigners' comments, Essex Council said: "We are urgently looking at all the legal and practical issues around how best to prevent further tragedies on the A127. The absolute priority is safety.

"We are working very closely with representatives of communities living near to the road, Essex Police and Basildon Council to consider all the available options."

● The petition can be signed at: http://tinyurl.com/A127-bridge-campaign.

What do you think? Write to Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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FOI rap for council

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

GRIEVING relatives had to wait up to six years for their loved-ones' deaths to be investigated, according to documents released by Essex Council.

The claim was among more than 60 complaints about the Essex coroners service, finally made public this month after the *Yellow Advertiser* won a 19-month legal battle with County Hall.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) ruled Essex Council had committed four legal breaches by failing to release the information after the *YA* requested it in June 2014.

The public body said County Hall had failed to properly search for information and release it within the legal time limit. The ICO also ruled that the small amount the Essex Council did release was improperly redacted.

Essex Council has apologised to the *YA* since the ruling, and said its information staff had been retrained in light of the decision.

Data released this month, since the ICO's ruling, showed that between 2009 and 2014, Essex Council recorded 43 complaints about delays in the coroners service.

However, some formal complaints logged before 2011 had been deleted by the time Essex Council conducted a proper search under the ICO's instruction, meaning others could have been lost since the *YA* requested them.

For five of the surviving complaints, the council said it logged too few details to be able to provide the *YA* with even a one-line summary of what they had been about.

Existing complaints included families who said they endured waits of four, five and six years for investigations into their relatives' deaths to be concluded.

Essex Council also received two complaints from funeral directors and one from a crematorium about 'delays'.

The documents also reveal continual complaints about poor communication of information from the coroner's service to families and the press.

One complaint said the service was 'not sharing public interest information'.

The *YA* requested details of complaints made about the service in July 2014, a month after senior coroner Caroline Beasley-Murray received an official sanction from the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office for delaying an inquest.

The coroners service has no legal duty to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, so the *YA* requested information held by Essex Council, to which the service is attached.

The authority had a legal duty to respond within 20 working days, but instead waited 11 months.

In May 2015, civil servants refused to release even basic details of complaints about the taxpayer-funded coroners service, claiming the information was 'personal'.

In August 2015, several months after the *YA* reported Essex Council to the ICO, the authority admitted it 'could have done more' to answer the *YA*'s questions.



MORE INFORMATION: Essex coroners service, led by Beasley-Murray, pictured, has promised to improve communications with families and the press

County Hall released details of seven formal complaints, but when the ICO continued investigating at the *YA*'s request, a further 58 complaints were unearthed.

The ICO's official ruling stated: "On two occasions, the commissioner identified a substantial amount of additional information that was held by the council, falling within the scope of the request.

"Regrettably, these errors have further compounded the substantial initial delay that the complainant experienced while awaiting a response to this request. The commissioner trusts that the council will make improvements to its handling of requests."

Essex Council said it 'acknowledged and fully accepted' the findings. A spokesman said: "On this occasion we did not provide all of the information we could have done and in recent months we have undertaken additional training with staff to improve their ability to better manage requests for information.

"We are continually looking to improve our customer service and much of this work has been taking place since the period this request covers. In the coming weeks a new Coroner's website will go live. This will provide important and real-time information on the service and forthcoming inquests."

The council, which handles press queries for the coroner's service, did not respond to questions about what had been done to minimise delays and improve communication.

Have you had problems with the Essex Coroners Service? Email basildon@yellowad.co.uk

Tides



High tide at Southend Pier:

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Fri:	0224	5.76	1447	5.72
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Mon:	0357	5.30	1618	5.19
Tue:	0432	5.09	1656	4.98
Wed:	0516	4.86	1745	4.76



Hospital team looks to inspire a stroke storyline in TV show

CONSULTANTS at Southend University Hospital may have a thing or two to teach ace clinical lead Connie Beauchamp from hit BBC show Casualty.

A story assistant from the Saturday night drama visited the hospital to gain a greater insight into the hospital's award-winning stroke service.

Southend is a leader in stroke care and story assistant, Hannah Durham, travelled from the filming home of Casualty in Cardiff, which acts as the location of the A&E department of Holby City Hospital.

The visit was organised thanks to stroke consultant Dr Sajid Alam, who is a huge fan of the show and its sister series, Holby City.

He said: "My wife and I always watch it and I thought that we could offer a fresh and unique perspective into stroke which we haven't seen covered on the show."

One visit later and Hannah was instantly wowed by all she learnt from an in-depth talk and tour by Dr Alam and the stroke team, such as how it can affect young people and symptoms that can be masked by making sufferers appear as if they have been drinking.



MEDICAL: Lead stroke consultant Dr Paul Guyler, left, Casualty story assistant Hannah Durham and stroke consultant Dr Sajid Alam

Hannah also got to meet world renowned interventional neuroradiologist Professor Iris Grunwald, who discussed her work with thrombectomy where she quite literally pulls out blood clots using a fine wire inserted into the patient's vein.

Southend is one of only a handful of hospitals in the UK to perform this pioneering procedure.

Dr Alam said: "Obviously Casualty is a fictional drama but it has to reflect the real medical world and its advances, it can also help educate the viewer in conditions such as stroke.

"If we can help influence the show and get that message out on a prime time Saturday night then we could help save lives not just across Essex but across the whole UK."

It is yet to be decided if the visit will inspire elements of a future episode, but information gathered on the day will now be shared at story meetings and with scriptwriters, as well as with staff on Casualty's sister show Holby City.

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WOODLAND WARRIORS

YOUNGSTERS visited Wat Tyler Country Park during half-term to take part in a range of indoor and outdoor events.

Activities included pond-dipping and kite-making, while daily 'woodland warriors' classes saw kids learn about a different subject each day, from ancient Greece to birdwatching.

Children who attended the woodland classes helped to build shelters from tarpaulin and made their own bird-feeders to take home.

Tiffany Belford-Fry, who ran the classes, said: "We even had them making fires – some were only two-years old. There was no wrapping them up in cotton wool."





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STEPPING OUT: kids discover their wild side at Wat Tyler Country Park
Photos by Martin Dalton





'There was no wrapping them up in cotton wool...'





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Police rated 'inadequate' for protecting vulnerable

Force rapped for work with missing children and tackling sexual exploitation

ESSEX Police has been graded "inadequate" for protecting vulnerable people.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary described "serious weaknesses" in the force's ability to safeguard individuals from harm.

The report comes weeks after another government assessment criticised the service's failings.

The HMIC report said: "The force's response to victims of domestic abuse is poor.

"There is confusion as to roles and responsibilities amongst officers in medium and standard risk cases resulting in safeguarding opportunities being missed.

"Not all officers charged with investigating high risk cases are appropriately trained and experienced.

"These weak processes are leading to inappropriate risk assessments that are leaving vulnerable children at risk.

"It was clear that officers do not always understand the link between missing children and child sexual exploitation.

"The force is unprepared to tackle child sexual exploitation.



REPORT: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary raised concerns over Essex Police's work protecting vulnerable people following an inspection last year

"The force has a poor understanding of the nature and scale of child sexual exploitation and knowledge and awareness among frontline staff are limited which adversely affects their ability to identify and respond to cases."

The force said it accepted the report's criticisms, but insisted that significant improvements had been made regards child protection.

The NSPCC criticised Essex Police over its failure to protect children from sex crime.

A spokesman said: "It's deeply disturbing that HMIC has rated Essex Police's as having a "significant weakness" in its response to missing and absent children and its preparedness to tackle child sexual exploitation.

"It is also incredibly concerning that frontline staff have limited knowledge and awareness of child sexual exploitation which hampers their ability to identify and respond to cases.

"This seems a remarkable state of affairs considering the high profile trials of grooming gangs in Rotherham, Rochdale and elsewhere which sharply brought into focus the failings of police forces in investigating these crimes and supporting young victims.

"As more victims of child abuse and exploitation continue to come forward, it's essential that all police forces are properly trained and equipped to respond to these most horrific of crimes."

Deputy Chief Constable Matthew Horne said: "We accept the report's criticisms of the force's work protecting vulnerable people including children and victims of domestic abuse.

"This is our highest priority and inspections last year which led to this report and one yet to be published on child protection have already been met with significant improvements in how we work to protect vulnerable people at risk of some of the most evil crimes in society.

"The report also finds that we need to work harder to translate our commitment and strong planning on crime reduction and prevention into consistent action across the county.

"Our new community policing teams, in place from later this spring, will focus on working hand-in-hand with local authorities through community safety hubs.

"These partnerships will focus on tackling anti-social behaviour and crime and make our communities better places."

Mr Horne added: "Her Majesty's Inspectors have found over the past year that Essex Police is an efficient, fair force with strong leadership in place within the organisation and a commitment to working in close partnership outside it. We are a big, diverse county with some incredibly difficult challenges but every day I witness the commitment, drive and outstanding examples of individual and team bravery and decision-making that gives me confidence in our ability to keep Essex safe now and in the future."

Grief of death crash family

A MOTORIST has been jailed for causing the death of a 22-year-old man through dangerous driving in Rayleigh last year.

Christopher Scott, 32, of St Marks Lane, Rochford, was sentenced to three years and eight months at Southend Crown Court and banned from driving for three years

He was driving a silver BMW coupe which collided with a telegraph pole in Hockley Road at 3.15am on January 25, 2015.

Passenger Oliver King from Leigh died following the collision.

Mr King's family said in statement after the sentencing: "The past year since my treasured son Oliver died in a road accident has been devastating for me, my family and Oliver's friends.

"I never thought that I would lose my son at age 22. He was a wonderful son. Handsome, with a beautiful physique, a tremendous wit and so caring.

"Thankfully the legal process is now complete but no outcome will bring Oliver back which is the only thing that I want.

"In my heart I feel sorry for Mr Scott and his family for what they have gone through and have to go through.

"I have lost my only child and the love of my life from which I will never recover.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the large number of people who have supported me through this tragedy and through whom I have gained so much strength."



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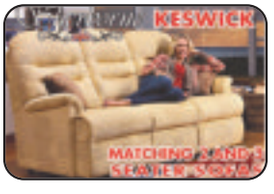
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EXPECT DELAYS: Harp House Roundabout
Photo by Mark Cleveland

WORK started on Monday to build two new pedestrian crossings by the busy Harp House roundabout near Southend Airport.

Staggered puffin signal crossings are to be installed on Rochford Road and Eastwoodbury Crescent to improve pedestrian safety and access at the Harp House Roundabout, which serves the airport and its retail park.

At the same time, the existing crossings on Southend Road and Manners Way will also be upgraded to include improve pedestrian access, particularly for the elderly.

The work will start with the installation of a traffic island on Eastwoodbury Crescent, associated crossing infrastructure, realignment of the pavement and upgrades to street lights.

Work to upgrade the existing crossings on Southend Road and Manners Way will take place at the same time.

Similar activity will then take place on Rochford Road, followed by upgrades to two bus stops, to include the installation of larger shelters and real-time passenger information displays.

The council says it will be making every attempt to keep disruption to motorists, residents and businesses to a minimum and only plans to work outside peak hours, namely Mondays to Fridays between 9.30am and 3.30pm and between 8am and 4pm at weekends.

Traffic on the approaches to the roundabout will need to be reduced to single lanes at times while this work takes place.

Cllr Martin Terry, executive member for public protection, waste and transport, said: "Making sure that people can safely cross our borough's roads simply has to be top of the council's agenda.

"This is also an important location for different bus routes and the new crossings and shelters will help people enormously.

"I kindly ask that local people bear with us while this work takes place and plan in some extra time for their journeys to and from the airport and retail park."

The new crossings are scheduled to be in operation by mid-spring.

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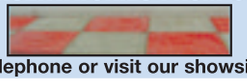
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Sir William was Secretary of State to four Tudor monarchs, and since his death Ingatestone Hall has passed through the hands of 15 generations of the Petre family who continue to own and occupy it.

The hall stands in open countryside, a mile from the village of Ingatestone and substantially retains its original Tudor form and appearance, with mullioned windows, high chimneys, crow-step gables and oak-panelled rooms.

It has two priests' hiding places and contains furniture, pictures and memorabilia accumulated over the centuries.

It is surrounded by 10 acres of enclosed gardens comprising extensive lawns, walled garden and stew pond.

The building remains primarily a private family residence – but on specified days during the summer months visitors are welcome to explore the house and grounds. It is also available for hire.

For more information about Ingatestone and other Essex attractions, go to www.visitessex.com.



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Shedding light on business park

THE issue of Rochford Council's planning application for an airport business park has not escaped the notice of St Laurence and All Saints Church, which has published good detail in its latest Living Way journal.

It is important for jobs but also because a traffic preference route will include a segment of Eastwoodbury Lane in the St Laurence Ward.

Development needs to take into good account the existing population and their transport needs. It is true that the joint plan is favoured by Southend Borough Council but details of the planning application have only been revealed at a meeting I called a little before Christmas 2015.

Cllr Mark Flewitt
St Laurence Ward

Wood burning stove health hazards

REGARDING wood burning stoves (*YA,* Feb 12), we agree with Edwina White because cigarettes are obviously not the only source of harmful smoke.

Burning wood creates dioxins, furans, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, dangerously hazardous particulates and nitrogen oxides. The fact is not all natural substances are harmless and we are being subjected to levels of toxic pollutants from wood burning that are far higher than from any other source.

Unlike highly regulated industries, wood burning stoves are in our neighbourhoods and some hotspot areas have recorded pollution levels comparable to traffic fumes.

Stoves are one of the most significant sources of the toxin dioxin. Even modern EPA-certified wood burning stoves still emit highly toxic levels of dioxin and these certified stoves degrade with use to the point where the particulate emissions are comparable to non-certified stoves.

Also pollutants from modern wood-fuelled appliances are usually higher than those from an equivalent gas fired appliance. Most of these harmful pollutants don't go up in smoke either; they do not rise.

They can stay around ground level for up to 10 days and longer in cold weather.

Scientists are working on this problem and have shown particulate levels inside homes reach up to 70 per cent of the pollution levels found outside.

Moreover, doctors and scientists agree that the pollutants involved can exacerbate asthma, lung and heart conditions and stroke; those with existing health problems, children and the elderly are most vulnerable. More worryingly, nearly one million homes in Britain now have these stoves.

The basic rule is: If you can smell the foul odour of wood smoke you are breathing in pollution hazardous to your health.

Our new-build bungalow came fitted with a wood burning stove, but thankfully we are fortunate enough to have an efficient underfloor heating system, so have never used it.

We believe much of the more serious pollution stems from ignorance and misuse. Many combustibles are not safe to burn in bonfires, fires and stoves.

If in doubt, be sensible and always read instructions or seek advice; information is readily available online.

- Only recommended types of fuel should be used in stoves. Green wood MUST be kept in a dry place for at least one year preferably two – damp wood is harder to burn and causes more hazardous smoke.
- Use clean dry wood/seasoned hardwood – soft wood leaves more deposits in chimneys.
- Never burn painted or treated wood, household waste, clothing and coloured paper – all of which can produce harmful chemicals and more hazardous smoke.
- Chimneys should be swept pre and post every winter's use.
- Ash should be removed after each burning – keep your fire place/appliance clean.
- Ensure good ventilation.

We respectfully suggest that if you have an efficient alternative means to heat your home, you should make better use of it and save the stove for emergencies and the odd special occasion. Be responsible and you, the planet and your neighbours will undoubtedly benefit.

Councils, please investigate this increasing problem and at least consider strict safety guidelines. We have the right to avoid cigarette smoke, but alarmingly we have no escape or easy redress when fuel-generated toxic smoke enters our own homes and gardens.

Dr & Mrs J R Gurney
Ashingdon

Council has to act now to save our pier

IF you think of Southend, what's the first thing you should think of? This was a question put to me.

I had to think, before someone said the pier. What a shame that the pier has become non-existent, it's been let go for some years now.

It was only last year that it was revealed that it cost Southend council tax paying residents £850,000.

If you had a business that made a loss like that, you would close it. The council should hold its head in shame.

Let's hope that it takes some risks and welcomes new ideas and businesses to oversee the pier before it loses this jewel that the Victorians were so proud of in days past.

Mark Annison
Southend

Safety at pedestrian crossing

I HAVE written before about the Kent Elms pedestrian crossing with regard to the lack of lights on the Bridgwater Drive section.

A number of people have criticised the change from a bridge to pedestrian light crossing on the A127 but I cannot see an issue.

This method has been used many times on roads wider and busier than at Kent Elms – in fact on the London end of the A127. I have seen many people crossing at road level before here and at other locations because they can't be bothered with using bridges and subways. I never cross any road crossing without checking that the traffic is stopping.

One thing that would probably help here is visual and audible countdown indicators that are in use in London and in many other countries.

Alan James
Hockley

Weasel words on elderly care

DESPITE the prime minister's weasel words – "The NHS is safe in our hands" – I fear that the Tory elite are achieving their object in killing off the NHS by a thousand cuts.

Who can blame them? For they have private health insurance and can see far greater availability of services and substantial tax cuts in reducing this massive government expenditure.

However, for every benefit there is a disbenefit and here we have further weasel words in how the Tories will care for our elderly. Despite the much boasted "triple lock" on pensions, the fact is it will not afford private health insurance for our state pensioners, who have the greatest need through advancing years of the health services. Hopefully, pensioners will realise their need rather than the Tories' want.

Les Harrington
Benfleet

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Kitesurfer dies in seafront tragedy

From front page

"You would never hear a bad word about him. He was always down the beach encouraging me and others to get out more.

"He'd go out for hours and hours, and was always practicing.

"I knew him personally for about five years. He was always at the front of something new on the scene and was extremely safety conscious.

"This was just a tragic accident."

Mr Paxton started out on land buggies and moved into kitesurfing more than 15 years ago.

He was among the first in the kiting community to take up race boarding. In recent years he began using kite foil boards that cause the board to leave the surface of the water at various speeds.

Mark's friends took to web forums, Twitter and Facebook to pay tribute to his passion for the sport. Mark Fuller on Facebook wrote: "What a lovely man. Such a tragedy."

An inquest is expected to be opened this week with a hearing scheduled for later in the year.

Green belt sites to be axed from local plan

CASTLE Point councillors are set to withdraw green belt sites earmarked for housing after pressure from residents.

The local plan for development up to 2030 should include land to meet housing needs, but the inclusion of green belt sites to satisfy home targets caused anger among residents. A report for tomorrow's (Wednesday) council meeting warns members any plan which did not provide enough housing would be turned down when it was examined by a government inspector, which could have legal and financial implications for the council.

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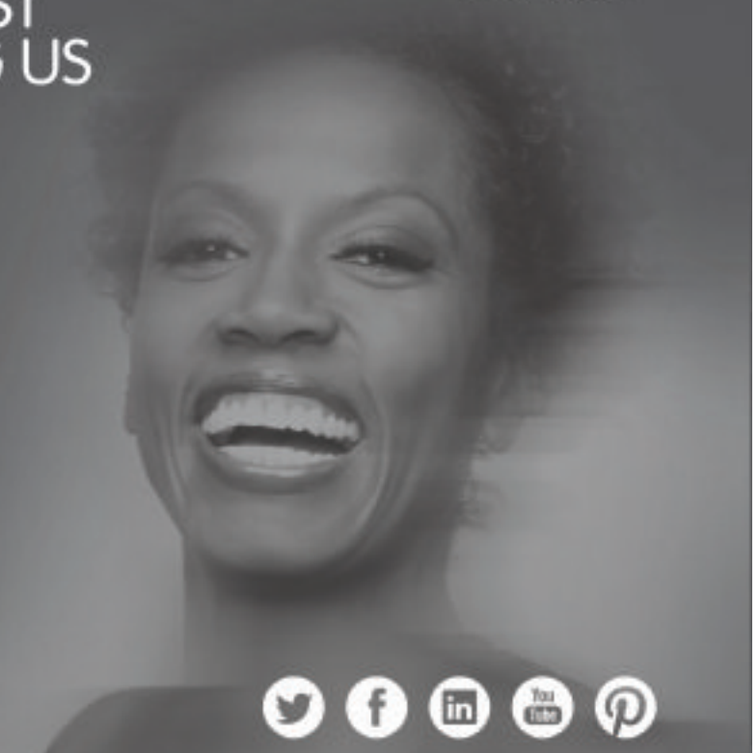
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COMMUNITY WINNER: Joan Lythgoe

Joan wins award for helping community

A WOMAN who set up a business to help her disabled granddaughter find work and ended up employing more than 30 adults has won a top award.

Canvey's Joan Lythgoe – one of 66 winners of this year's Halifax Giving Extra Awards – was nominated by her daughter Jean.

She was honoured as the driving force behind a workshop offering activities for people with disabilities.

The awards go to those who have gone that extra mile for their communities.

Joan set up Business Opportunities for the Physically Disabled after her granddaughter left school to provide her with employment experience.

Joan also runs a charity shop in order to help fund the cause.

She said: "I was surprised but also delighted to win this award. It was such an honour to just be nominated, so I am dead chuffed to have actually won."

Michaela Baker, community ambassador for Halifax Essex East, added: "The work Joan has done for the community is outstanding and truly deserves this recognition. She has truly gone the extra mile for people in our community – and we are delighted to recognise this."

Local winners each receive £300 Supercheques vouchers, and go forward to compete to be one of seven regional winners.

Regional winners will be announced at the end of February and will each receive £5,000 to make a further difference in their community.

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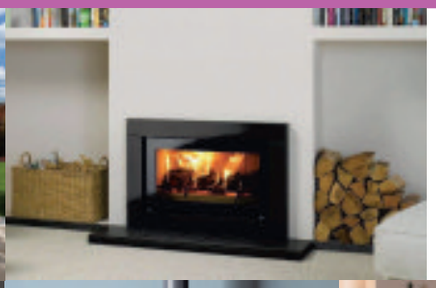
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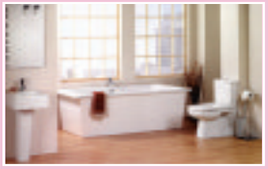
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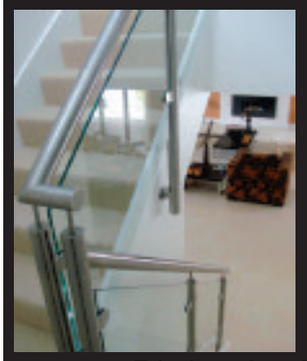
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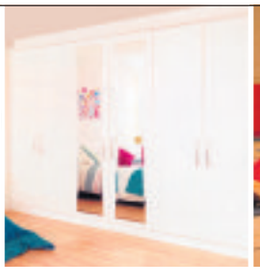
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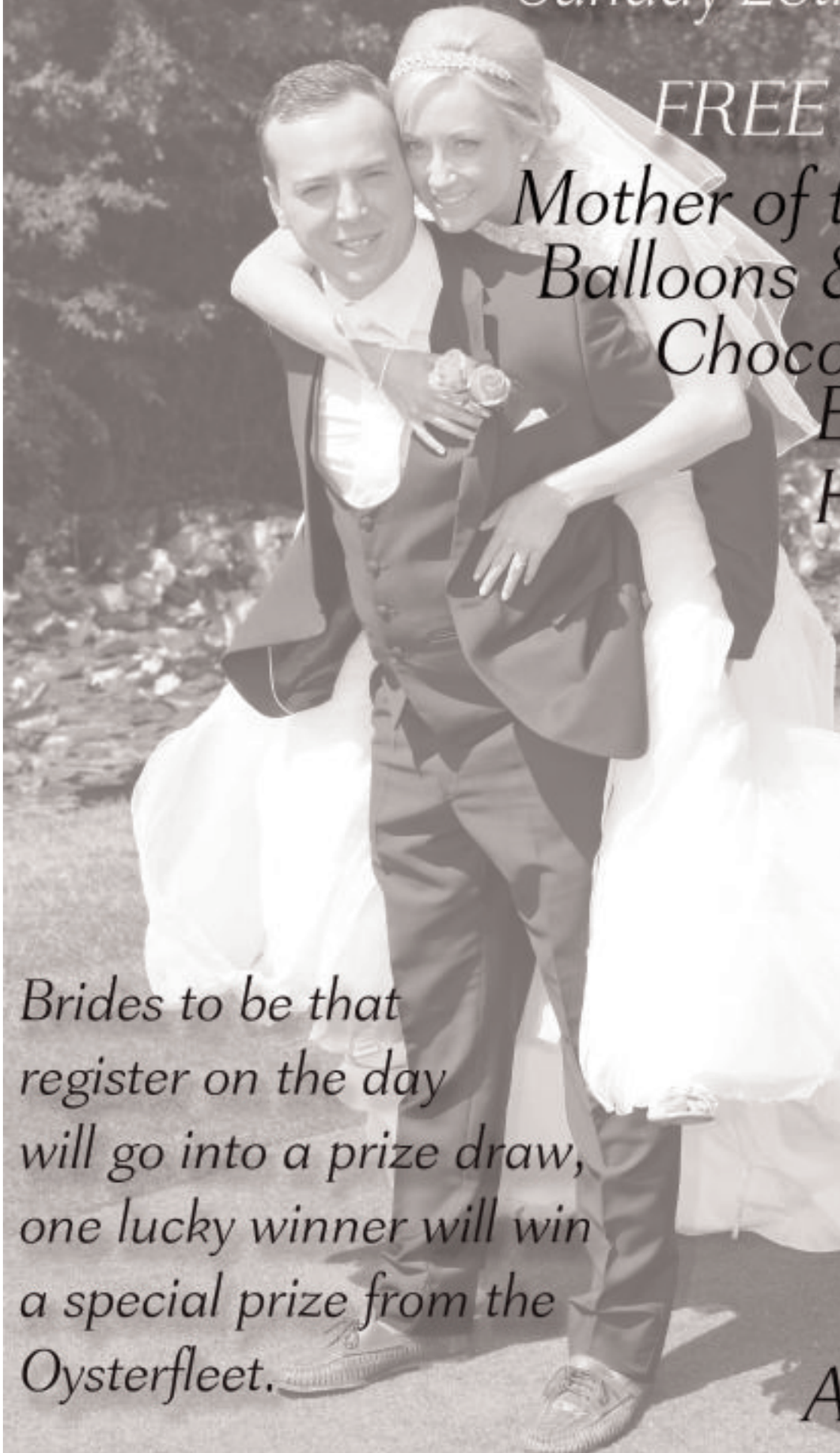
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While many of us plan to spoil our mums on Sunday, March 6, with mouthwatering cuisine and special gifts, how many of us know the origins behind the tradition of showing our mothers how much we care?

The special day many of us refer to as Mother's Day, is not Mother's Day at all.

It is officially Mothering Sunday – the middle Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter.

Mother's Day is an American tradition that began in the early 20th century and falls on the second Sunday in May.

Mothering Sunday has become an occasion for honouring mothers and giving them presents, but in the 16th century is was a time when people returned to their mother church for a service on Laetare Sunday and anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone 'a-mothering'.

Later, it was a date when domestic servants got the day off to visit their mother church with their families and mums.

On their way they would pick wild flowers to place in their mother church or give to their mothers.

The religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giv-

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ing gifts to mother.

The tradition lapsed until Constance Penswick-Smith, the daughter of a Nottinghamshire vicar, made it her mission to reinvigorate the Christian holiday of Mothering Sunday.

In 1914 she was inspired by American, Anna Jarvis, who campaigned to make Mother's Day a recognised holiday.

Anna's campaign in the USA began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War, died.

She held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church, West Virginia – which now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine – and by 1911 all US states were observing the holiday.

Inspired by Anna, Constance published a book, The Revival of Mothering Sunday, and created the Mothering Sunday Movement.

Thanks to her more than 25 years' promoting its celebration, Mothering Sunday was observed and re-established across the Church or England and in society.

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PrimeTime

What's on and what's coming

MIRACLE MAN

MASTER of psychological illusion, Derren Brown, will be returning to Cliffs Pavilion with his most daring show yet.

Derren Brown: Miracle, will be gracing the stage at the Westcliff theatre from Monday to Saturday, March 14 to 19, for six evenings of mind-altering genius.

Following Miracle's 2015 sell-out tour, and a critically-acclaimed 10-week run at London's Palace Theatre, the multi-award winning master of illusion returns to the theatre as part of a 20-venue national tour.

The tour, which runs until July, will be the last chance to see Brown live on stage for the foreseeable future as he is taking a break having toured since 2003.

Brown said: "It's been 14 years of touring, and that's with writing a new show every two years. I may do something overseas for a change, but nothing major here in 2017.

"After that I'm not sure. I love touring so I don't imagine I'm stopping for good quite yet. But a break would be lovely."

The manipulator of magic and mind control says he is looking forward to the second leg of the Miracle tour, adding: "It's an enormously enjoyable show to do.

"I've never toured straight after the West End before, which I think will be fun as it's in such good shape. I can't wait to get started."

Miracle, which has captured the public's imagination since going on tour last year, is different from previous tours says Brown as it is about things that are important to him. He said: "Others have had autobiographical bits in them, some more authentic than others, but this one is about things I find important. It has a philosophical underpinning I really care about. It's ultimately, I suppose, about what makes us happier."

Without giving too much away, Brown says the show has come a long way since it opened last year.

He said: "I had no idea if the second half would work at all when we started. In theory, my audiences are totally the wrong audiences to get to the place I need to get them to. As there's no way of testing how an audience will respond without having an audience. I just had to get up there and do it on the first night and see how it went.

"It went very well, which was a huge relief. It still needed a lot of work, and after a week or two of shifting and polishing things, the show felt right.

"Since then we've continued to work on it and now it feels terrific – a very long way from it's opening week in Dartford last year.

"It's a bold and ballsy second half, as all my favourite things are. Once I realised it was going to work well, as it could have failed flat on its face, it's been a joy to work on theatrically and get to a great place."

While Brown admits a break would be lovely, it is not so much from touring, its more from the creation of new shows as "it's a lot of work getting them up to speed".

His last television show, Pushed To The Edge, which aired on Channel 4 in

● Turn to page 28

MASTER OF ILLUSION: Derren Brown is coming to Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff

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The Grand National at Aintree

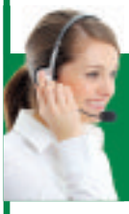
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Highlights & inclusions

- Admission to the Steeplechase Enclosure at Aintree (ticket upgrade available for a supplement)
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PrimeTime film review



Hi spy!

Nobby (Sacha Baron Cohen and Sebastian (Mark Strong) PA Photo/Sony

GRIMSBY (15, 83 mins)

LOUIS Leterrier, director of The Transporter and Now You See Me, tries in vain to contain the manic energy of Borat star Sacha Baron Cohen in this action-packed comic caper.

Sebastian Grimsby (Mark Strong) is a debonair and dashing secret agent with MI6, whose resourcefulness and courage know no bounds.

For 28 years, he has been estranged from his adopted big brother Nobby (Cohen), a dim-witted football hooligan with monstrous sideburns, who lives in Grimsby with his despairing girlfriend Lindsey (Rebel Wilson) and nine children.

After almost three decades apart, Nobby reunites with his brother just as Sebastian uncovers a diabolical plot that could mean the end of the world.

Surrounded by assassins and potential traitors, the super spy calls upon the questionable skills of his numbskull brother to avert catastrophe.

Co-stars include Penelope Cruz, Isla Fisher, Ian McShane and Johnny Vegas.

Released: February 24

SECRET IN THEIR EYES (15, 111 mins)

HOLLYWOOD has never been shy about resetting the delicate, glittering jewels of foreign cinema as gaudy showcases for A-list stars.

When Argentinian writer-director Juan Jose Campanella won the Oscar for his serpentine 2009 thriller El Secreto De Sus Ojos, it was only a matter of time before an English-language version surfaced.

The sturdy structure and hairpin twists remain firmly in place, but the original film's politically charged setting – the volatile period before Argentina's Dirty War – has been replaced by the paranoia and fear that percolated across America in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

In 2002 Los Angeles, FBI counter-terrorism officer Ray Karsten (Chiwetel Ejiofor) assesses possible threats emanating from a local mosque.

He is called to a crime scene close to the mosque and identifies the raped and mutilated body of a girl in a dumpster as Caroline Cobb (Zoe Graham), the daughter of his good friend, Jessica Cobb (Julia Roberts), who works as an investigator for district attorney Martin Morales (Alfred Molina).

Flanked by his partner Bumpy Willis (Dean Norris), Ray identifies a comic book-obsessed misfit called Marzin (Joe Cole) as the prime suspect.

Ray and assistant DA Claire Sloan (Nicole Kidman) attempt to entrap Marzin, but Morales warns them off because the oddball is a police informant.

"That boy is untouchable. Welcome to the war on terror," growls the district attorney.

Thirteen years later, Ray identifies a man who he believes is Marzin in disguise. He reunites with Jess and Claire to solve the case, but reopening old wounds comes at a terrible price.

Unfolding in dual time frames 13 years apart, Secret In Their Eyes is a competent update of a vastly superior tale of retribution and regret.

A bold final flourish should stun audiences who haven't had the intense, nerve-racking pleasure of watching the original.

Released: February 26
RATING: 6/10

Stage

Show to make you feel 'uncomfortable'

From page 27

January, caused a stir but he says he hasn't seen the reaction as he switches off from media or social media response after television shows go out.

"People I've spoken to seem to think it's one of the best things I've done, which is lovely to hear. It's a show that makes you feel uncomfortable, which of course means that some quarters will peddle their peculiar brand of outrage.

"I suppose that's a sign that it's worked. More than that I keep away from, and am happy to not know what the reactions are.

"If I like it, and the participants have got something out of it, then I'm happy."

With plans to stop touring for a while, Brown says he will miss Sunday roasts and changes of scene, among other things.

He said: "I enjoy the ease of having a group of friends; it's something I've never had socially.

"I choose my team based more than anything on how delightful they are to spend time with.

"Having a drink and a chat after the show as we all wind down is just wonderful. I like the change from week to week.

"One city feels like home, like you've been there forever, and then you're off and it all starts again. That's fun, I like changes of scene. And Sunday roasts as we travel from one city to another.

"Then there's 'day-off socks'. We have to wear black socks for the show so we go wild on Sundays and try to outdo each other with the wildest socks we can find.

"We're pretty rock 'n' roll like that. I think the Stones did the same in the 70s."

While he will be taking a break, there are other chapters just around the corner for Brown as he hopes to publish a book about happiness this year, and will see his ride – Derren Brown's Ghost Train – open at Thorpe Park in May.

He adds: "I hope it'll scare and delight in equal measure. It's been a huge project and an extraordinary opportunity to have fun with the latest technology and let my imagination run wild.

"Nothing of its kind exists, so I'll be eager to hear from the first people who ride it and find out what they make of it."

■ For further information about Derren Brown: Miracle, which is not suitable for children under 12, call the Cliffs Pavilion box office on 01702 351135 or visit southendtheatres.org.uk.

Liz At Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about



Community forest transforms landscape



GREEN SPACE: Pages Wood

THE planting of 100,000 trees has transformed the landscape of the largest site in Thames Chase since it opened in 2002.

While a variety of tree species at Pages Wood, between Upminster and Harold Wood, is still maturing, they have already transformed the former adjacent farmsteads of Mount Pleasant and Pages Farm for the benefit of visitors.

As the woodland continues to grow it begins to flank great swathes of open grassland and pathways, all of which are explored by everyone from ramblers and runners to cyclists and horse riders.

Pages Wood, which spans an area of 182 acres (74 hectares), offers 6.5km of walking and cycling paths, as well as 2.2km of bridlepaths, situated in a wonderful valley of green space that dips down from the wood's main car park off Hall Lane, Upminster, to the River Ingrebourne, and then uphill to Harold Wood.

Three bridges at the site, including one in the north west towards Harold Wood, and another to the south west, connected the meadows and created a large area of green space, as well as a mosaic of habitats for wildlife.

Throughout the year there are a variety of birds to see, from wintering fieldfare and redwings in January, and kestrels hunting from perches in February, to migrating martins and swallows in September and flocks of finches in October.

Other highlights at the site include yellowhammer calling in May, skylark flight songs in June, water voles in July and dragonflies in August.

While reputedly Pages Wood was once part of the Royal Hunting Forest of Havering, owned by King Harold, it is now part of Thames Chase Community Forest that covers 40 square miles of countryside in the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Brentwood and Thurrock.

Over the past 25 years extensive work has taken place to regenerate pockets of land in these areas that have suffered in the past from gravel and sand extraction and landfill, as well as loss of farmland and natural woodland.

So far, more than two million trees have been planted within the community forest – 100,000 of which are at Pages Wood – and new areas of meadow, woods and ponds have been created as well as cycle routes, bridleways and footpaths.

The long-term goal for Thames Chase Community Forest is to cover 30 per cent of open land with woodland and connect all the natural and historic attractions so everyone can travel from one to the other without using a busy road.

In the meantime, if you want to walk the dog, see wildlife, stretch your legs on a run or ride a bike with the family, Pages Wood is a fantastic place to go.

If you want to wander further then cross from Pages Wood to Harold Court Woods to the north west of the site, and Tylers Common and Tylers Wood to the north east. At Pages Wood you can connect to the London Loop, allowing you to roam further afield, and Sustrans cycle route 136 goes through Pages Wood from Hall Lane and into Harold Wood Park.

■ For more about Pages Wood visit www.thameschase.org.uk.

You can read previous days out by visiting yellowad.co.uk and clicking on blogs



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PrimeTime

what's on

To have your event considered for publication, send the details AT LEAST 10 DAYS before the issue date to: What's On, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1AH. You can e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included.
However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Saturday, February 27

■ Quiz Night – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 7.30pm, £5 per head, bring own food and drink, proceeds to 2nd Thundersley Scout Group. 01268 752012.
■ Ploughman's lunch – Canvey Methodist Church, Waarden Road, 11am-1pm, £3. Also stalls, cakes, cards, books, bric-a-brac.
■ Basildon Saturday Club – For people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon. 01268 415409.
■ Club 50+ Southend – 9.30am-3.30pm daily, activities, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
■ Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
■ Dads and Kids Club – The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free entry for ages five to 17 with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
■ Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
■ Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
■ Different Strokes Exercise Class – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for stroke victims, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
■ Jazz workshop – Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old Fire Station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).

Sunday, February 28

■ South East Essex Ramblers – six-mile walk, Paglesham sea wall. 10am from Plough & Sail pub, Paglesham, SS2 4HF. Details Andy 07946 432198.
■ Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz – Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 12.30pm. 01702 345247.
■ Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
■ Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
■ King's Church Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon, 01702 523639.
■ Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourious and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
■ Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
■ Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11am, details Mo 07757 658799/07842 211218.

Monday, February 29

■ Meeting – National Service (RAF) Association, Hadleigh, Guest speaker Squadron Leader Andy Gaskell. Details Ron 01268 779697.
■ Romford Historical Society Talk – Suttons Farm, Birth of an Airfield, by Dennis Lynch, 343 Dagnam Park Drive, Harold Hill, RM3 9EN. 8pm. £2.50 (visitors). Members free.
■ Games Club – St Clement's Church, The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Scrabble, chess, rummikub, backgammon and lots more. 2pm-4pm. Tel 07884 148148.
■ Ron Spack's Jazztet – Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood. Ian Thompson saxophone, Chris English keyboards, 8.30pm. 01702 512819.
■ Coffee Morning – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon. All welcome.
■ Club 50+ – 1B Queens Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
■ Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or turn up.
■ Dance class – usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
■ Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. All standards. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
■ George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am to noon, tai chi: whist 9.45am-12.30pm, 10am to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2, 01268 465854.
■ Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
■ Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
■ Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
■ Over-50s session – Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road. Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
■ Activity Session for adults with special needs – 10am to noon. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
■ Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call Vernon 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
■ Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
■ Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Benfleet, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
■ Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Levy 07913 426371, email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
■ Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
■ Beginners Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
■ Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
■ Short Mat Bowls – in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
■ Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
■ Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Mon 2-4pm, Tues 2.15-4.45pm, Wed 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.
■ Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
■ Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
■ Pensioners stall – York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
■ Evening of clairvoyance – Room 2, Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey, 7.30pm, £3, all profits to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, 01268 691922.
■ Healing in Basildon – 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.
■ Development Healing Circle – Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.
■ Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.
■ Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opp police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.

Tuesday, March 1

■ IT help sessions – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.
■ Magic: The Gathering Club – play and trade, beginners welcome, Laindon Community Centre, SS15 6NX, 6-10pm email: BasildonMTG@hotmail.com.
■ Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am. 01702 712150.
■ Alzheimer's Society Men's Motivational Group – call 01702 345156 or 343121.
■ Anchor Folk Club – Brooke Williams, 7-9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm, £8, 01702 715111.
■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
■ Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus. 07961 314983.
■ Social Dance Class – instruction, in ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. 01702 546219/542349.
■ Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
■ Weekly Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh. 2.30-4pm. No charge. Emma 01702 471873.
■ Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club requires new or experienced players – James Hornsby School, Laindon. First session free, call or text 07952 043456.

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PrimeTime

competition

- Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
- Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, Anne 01702 556470.
- Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, Steve Tilston, 8pm. 01702 715111.
- Tea Dance – Ashingdon Memorial Hall, Ashingdon Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm. 01702 584575.
- Scrabble Club – Hockley Social Centre (rear of library) 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 01702 205910.
- Ladies Fellowship – Salvation Army in Hadleigh, 7.30pm, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 017002 551470.
- The Puffer's Club, Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm. 01702 610050/466827.
- Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Fryerns Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, 9.30am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2 enquiries Anne 01702 556470.
- The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga: 10-11am, sit down yoga: 11.10-12.10, keep fit: noon to 1pm, line dancing: 1.20-2.20pm, chess: 1.30-3.30pm, craft: 1.30-3.30. 01268 465854.
- Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.
- Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.
- New and nearly new stall – outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet in church foyer), 10am-noon.
- Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems. 01702 258661.
- Carpet Bowls – Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 3.30-5.30pm, no experience necessary, £2 per session, joining fee £5, first session free.
- Bingo and Hoy – Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John Clarke 01268 570575.
- Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Mencap) – Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.
- Tuesday Luncheon Club – Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, details 01702 478691/ 525141/340617.
- Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.
- Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all. 01268 498642.
- Shoebury Flagship – Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team with advice and support for parents with babies and children aged up to five. 01702 577656.

Wednesday, March 2

- Belvedere Jazz & Music Club – The Skelton-Skinner Swing Septet, 8pm, The Chichester, Rawreth, SS11 8UE. Admission £10. Tel: 07850 607075.
- South East Essex Ramblers – five-mile walk Ashingdon to Fambridge, 10am, Ashingdon Village Hall, SS4 3HF. Details Doug 01702 548025. Ten-mile walk Basildon to Horndon on the Hill, 10am, One Tree Hill top car park, SS17 9NH. Details Ray 07532 147207, Steve 07905 601284.
- Sculpture, Stone Carving & Lettering – Traditional tools and professional tuition. 8-10pm, Studio Workshop, West Road, Shoeburyness. Jim Davis 01702 292867
- Southend Beating Bowel Cancer Support Group – Nazareth House, London Road, Southend, 1.30-4.30pm, details Janet Wagstaff 01702 312959.
- Pregnancy Yoga Class – Westwood Primary School, Hadleigh, 8-9pm. £6 per session. Details Linda 01702 552260.
- Line dancing lessons – 12.30-2.30pm, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PA. 07948 108195.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- The Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh – 1.30-3pm. Caley Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.
- Leigh Singles Social Club – 45-65s, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh. www.leighsingles.co.uk
- Activity Session for children with special needs, aged five to 18, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Donation of £1 per session, siblings welcome.
- Graham's Social Tea Dance – Richmond Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet. Ballroom, Latin and sequence dances for all abilities. 2-4.25pm, strictly over-18s, free parking £4. 01268 752473.

Win tickets to Moody Blues tribute show

LEGEND of a Band – a tribute to The Moody Blues – is at Palace Theatre, Westcliff, in March and we have FIVE pairs of tickets to give away.

The band, made up of five legendary musicians, singers and songwriters, including drummer Gordy Marshall and keyboard player Paul Bliss, who performed with The Moody Blues for more than 20 years, will be at the theatre on Saturday, March 19.

Marshall and Bliss, who performed on the Moody Blues' 2015 nationwide tour, are joined by 10cc lead singer Mick Wilson, guitarist Tim Maple who has played with Westlife, and James Blunt and Joss Stone's bass player Malcolm Moore.

The show, which starts at 7.30pm is a chance to experience performances of classic Moody Blues hits including Nights in White Satin, Go Now, Tuesday Afternoon, Legend of a Mind, Question and Isn't Life Strange, as well as Justin Hayward's Forever Autumn and a show-stealing rendition of Eve of the War from Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds.



LEGENDS OF A BAND: Paul Bliss and below with the rest of the band

It promises an insight into the kings of the concept album – The Moody Blues – and the chance to relive classic, million-selling albums including Days of Future Passed, In Search of the Lost Chord, On the Threshold of a Dream and To Our Children's Children.

For tickets call the Palace Theatre box office on 01702 334255, visit southendtheatres.org.uk or www.grtentertainments.com.

Q: How many legendary musicians are members of Legend of a Band?

A: Three
B: Four
C: Five

To enter the competition telephone your answer – A, B or C – to (0901 307 1686) with your name, address, telephone number and email.

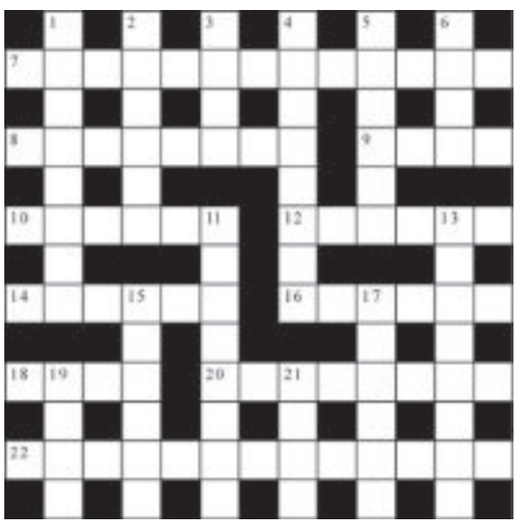
Alternatively text YABAND (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333.

Calls cost 50p per call plus your phone company's access charge. Calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, text EXIT at the end of your message. Lines close on Thursday, March 3. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

Service Provider: JMedia UK Limited, RH16 3EG. Tel: 0207 720 7130.

T&Cs: The winners will be drawn at random after the closing date. Editor's decision is final and there is no cash alternative.

double crossword



CRYPTIC CLUES
ACROSS

7. One producing a new issue of stock? (6,7)
8. Moral considerations that may be dispensed with (8)
9. Entrance for all the spectators (4)
10. Opt for the French spiced food (6)
12. Prattle with a fellow power worker (3-3)
14. Get Ray to do a turn in variety (6)
16. Pay and stay (6)
18. Enclosures for the birds (4)
20. What the one in despair gets from a transplant! (3,5)
22. The office of the minute-man (13)

DOWN

1. Tiny acts of holiness, maybe (8)
2. Impressed by southern freight transport (6)
3 and 6 Down. Could this temporary shelter produce a toll? (4-4)
4. Supplies forecasts for a long time in newspapers (8)
5. Impedes movement on the western frontiers (6)
6. See 3 Down
11. Tiny tree ruined for all time (8)
13. Having hypersensitive reaction is disturbing to Eric Gall (8)
15. Definitely say it's a lock-up (6)
17. In fact, he is taken for a man of God (6)
19. Need to reform the original garden (4)
21. Used to be among the lower echelons (4))

QUICK CLUES
ACROSS

7. Scarce (2,5,6)
8. Reserved (8)
9. Fruit (4)
10. Various (6)
12. Withdraw (6)
14. Journey (6)
16. Sticky (6)
18. Tun (4)
20. Home (8)
22. Cheap (5,3,1,4)

DOWN

1. Prior to (8)
2. Sacred place (6)
3. Impel (4)
4. Specialised (8)
5. Stopper (6)
6. Electrical connector (4)
11. Harden (8)
13. Erratic (8)
15. Norseman (6)
17. Indict (6)
19. Confess (4)
21. Stain (4))

Last week's solutions

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Snip; 8 Imposition; 9 Shortage; 10 Reap; 12 Swords; 14 Stolon; 15 Slaves; 17 Better; 18 Thin; 19 Derision; 21 Minute-book; 22 Eddy.
Down: 2 Night watch; 3 Pier; 4 Appals; 5 Assets; 6 Start out; 7 Snap; 11 Above-board; 13 Ravenous; 16 Sodden; 17 Barrow; 18 Tome; 20 Sake.

QUICK SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Tomb; 8 Abominable; 9 Handcuff; 10 Clip; 12 Beagle; 14 Remedy; 15 Strong; 17 Lunacy; 18 Plot; 19 Sanctity; 21 Chronicles; 22 Kind.
Down: 2 Ornamental; 3 Bald; 4 Volume; 5 Differ; 6 Watchman; 7 Deep; 11 Indication; 13 Adoption; 16 Gossip; 17 Lonely; 18 Pick; 20 Task.

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PrimeTime

eating out

Plenty on offer at The Castle

Advertisement feature

ENJOY a traditional English pub atmosphere, delicious homemade food and spectacular sea views at The Castle.

The family-run establishment in Eastern Esplanade is one of Southend's oldest listed pubs and has built an enviable reputation over the years as both its staff and owner, Janet, pride themselves on their menu and service.

Janet and her family have run the pub for 16 years and are very much a part of the community. Janet and daughter Jolene are members of the North Thameside Ladies Auxiliary and this year helped to raise £12,000, which was presented by the mayor to local charities.

Throughout the year The Castle serves great homemade food all day, from noon to 9pm, from Monday to Saturday, and from noon to 7pm on Sundays, so you can enjoy a bite to eat from lunch right through to the evening.

On Steak Thursdays you can enjoy an 8oz rump steak with all the trimmings for only £5.95, and on the last Steak Thursday of every month there is a quiz.



On Sundays you can enjoy the famous roast, served from noon to 5pm in the upstairs restaurant with waitress service, for just £6.95 for a main course or £10.95 for three courses, with children's roasts available for £3.25. As well as its extensive menu, The Castle also offers special children's meals, including a free drink, from just £3.50.

On top of all this there is a Happy Hour from 5pm to 7pm, from Monday to Friday, when you can enjoy £1 off all pints of draught beer, FREE pool all day every Monday and live football shown on the big screen.

The venue offers a great selection of wines by the glass or bottle, together with quality cask ales and lagers for you to savour, including guest ales specially selected to complement the regular selection.

In warmer months the outside area overlooking the seafront is ideal for al fresco drinking and dining.

The Castle has a function room, which can be hired for a range of occasions, with its own bar and toilets, as well as magnificent sea views. Staff can arrange a DJ, provide a buffet for a range of budgets, and with rooms available from just £25 night for a single, £40 per night for a twin and £50 per night for a double, there is no rush to get home.

Special occasions are catered for throughout the year including Mother's Day, when it will serve a special three-course menu on Sunday, March 6. The menu, which costs just £14.95 per person, includes a choice of starters, a choice of four roast meats all served with fresh vegetables, roasted and new potatoes, homemade stuffing, gravy and Yorkshire puddings, plus a choice of desserts. For further information or to make a booking at The Castle – a great, family-friendly pub which always has lots on offer – call 01702 467152, visit thecastlesouthend.com, email hillsjanet@yahoo.co.uk or check out latest events on its Facebook page.

CLIFFS PAVILION
www.thecliffspavilion.co.uk
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Thursday 3rd March at 8.00pm
Lulu
Package £82.50*
(visit www.thecliffspavilion.co.uk)

Tuesday 8th March at 8.00pm
The Bootleg Beatles
£29.00*, £28.00*, £25.00*





Sunday 6th March at 5.30pm
The Russian State Ballet of Siberia presentThe Sleeping Beauty
2pm £34.50*, £31.50*, £28.50*, £21.50*
5.30pm £39.50*, £36.50*, £32.50*, £24.50*
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Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm
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PrimeTime

eating out

The Oysterfleet Wedding Fayre

Advertisement feature

YOUR wedding is one of the most important days of your life so make sure you get off to the right start by visiting the Oysterfleet Wedding Fayre.

Your big day will be something you will want to look back on and cherish for the rest of your life so there is nothing more important than planning every detail.

It can be a daunting task so if you want your day to go with a swing, head to the free admission Wedding Fayre, on Sunday, February 28, where you can book up every aspect of your dream day – all under one roof.

The Oysterfleet, in Knightswick Road, Canvey Island, will be joined by a wide range of experts from 11am to 3pm, who will be offering a large variety of ideas for your special day in a bid to make it as stress-free as possible.

A range of stalls will be showcasing everything from delicious cakes and beautiful postboxes, to delightful chair covers.

There will also be event dressers on hand, a children's sweet cart, a range of jewellery and free hair and make-up trials.

For those who are still looking for the perfect outfit there will be bridalwear





specialists, as well as a wide range of wedding shoes, tiaras, bridal jewellery and bridesmaids dresses, and mother of the bride wear.

With so much effort going into your big day don't forget to create a special keepsake you can treasure forever with the help of an experienced photographer, and even have the whole event filmed from start to finish.

There will be live entertainment from singer Chris Hobart, and Nick's Disco, and wedding specialists at the Oysterfleet will be on hand to tell you how they can make your dreams come true, whether you are having a big white wedding or a civil ceremony.

All brides who register at the event will be put into a free prize draw from which one lucky winner will receive a prize from the Oysterfleet.

Companies attending the event include D&T Images' Photographers, AJB Video, Sophisticakes, 1 Sweet Day Candy Cart, Charlie and The Chocolate Fountain, Olivia Rose Bridalwear, Aurora Salon hair and make-up, It's Covered Beauty, Michael Frank Jewellers, Wow Balloons, Exquisite Wedding Events, Picture Perfect Photo Booths, Forever Living Beauty Products, Sue's Flower Studio, Nick's Disco and wedding singer Chris Hobart.

For more information about the Oysterfleet's Wedding Fayre, which offers free admission, call Debbie on 07867 547413.

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All amenities are within easy reach including the Arches, Genting Casino and restaurants. The Cliffs Pavilion Theatre and bars are within walking distance, along with Southend High Street. The Fenchurch Street to Southend train line is accessed from Westcliff Station.

Accommodation is split over two floors via a private lift protected by a video entry system with CCTV backup. All bedrooms are on the first floor, while living accommodation is on the top floor.

The kitchen is fitted with handmade units with granite work tops, with Fisher and Paykel appliances.

The living area is enhanced by a balcony and two double doors with 180-degree views of the Thames, estuary and Southend Pier.

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Templewood Road, HADLEIGH \ Guide £350,000 - £375,000









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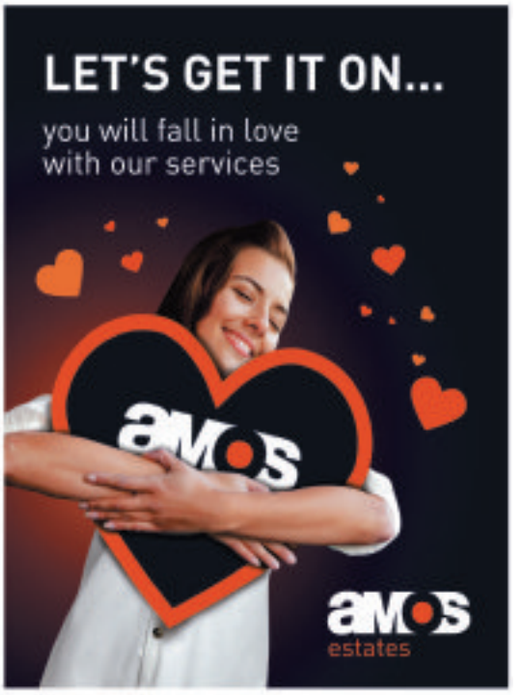
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WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA \ Guide £200,000 - £215,000







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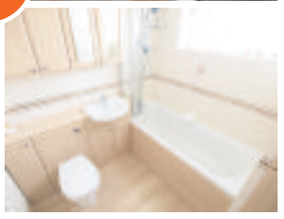
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Thundersley \ 1200pcm



This is a three bedroom semi detached house within a quiet close in Thundersley. The property comprises of a lounge, dining area and modern kitchen, downstairs W/C, two double bedrooms a single bedroom and the modern family bathroom. There is a driveway for several cars and a garage plus front and rear gardens. The property is available for an immediate move. EPC Band C / Fees Apply

Eastwood \ 1400pcm






This is a four bedroom detached house within a quiet cul de sac close to Southend Airport. The property comprises of a lounge, dining room, modern kitchen, downstairs WC, four bedrooms with a large master, and a modern bathroom. There are front & rear gardens and off street parking. Available February! EPC Band D / Fees Apply.



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Leigh-on-Sea \ 975pcm

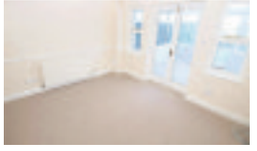





Situated in Leigh-on-Sea is this two double bedroom end of terrace house. The property consists of a good size lounge with dining area, spacious conservatory, modern kitchen, two double bedrooms and a separate modern bathroom and W/C. Externally there is a rear garden and parking to the front. EPC Band D / Fees Apply

Leigh-On-Sea \ £1,200pcm



This is a fully refurbished two bedroom house located South of Leigh Broadway within walking distance to Chalkwell train station. This property benefits from a brand new kitchen, lounge, conservatory, two double bedrooms, modern bathroom, rear garden and off street parking! EPC Band C / Fees Apply

Leigh-on-Sea \ 650pcm






This is a large, modern one bedroom ground floor flat situated within walking distance of the local amenities and Leigh Broadway. The property comprises of an entrance hall, large lounge, double bedroom with patio doors opening onto the private rear garden and a modern kitchen and bathroom. EPC Band D / Fees Apply

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Wellstead Gardens Westcliff

Five Bedrooms £625,000

Guide price £625,000 - £650,000 Deceptively spacious five bedroom character family house located in this highly sought after location backs directly onto open playing fields with fabulous views. Finished to a extremely high standard and boasts an open plan kitchen/family room, two en-suites plus a main luxury family bathroom, garage & plenty of off street parking.

01702 719 777







Canewdon Road Westcliff

One Bedroom £175,000

Delightful first floor apartment located within this convenient and popular location and which boasts its own front door, a 17'7 x 12'11 dual aspect lounge, separate modern fitted kitchen and a 18'6 x 10'2 double bedroom and modern bathroom. Share of Freehold, parking for three cars.

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Scratton Road Southend on Sea

Four Bedrooms £425,000

Open Day Saturday 27th February between 12 - 1.30pm Guide Price £425'000 - £450'000 This beautifully refurbished the four bedroom town house located in highly sough after 'Southend Conservation Area' and within walking distance of the town centre, Seafront and Southend Central Railway Station.

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Hillside Crescent Leigh on Sea

Three Bedrooms £425,000

An exceptional first & second floor apartment with its own entrance, off street parking and direct access to a rear garden along with a share of the freehold and a fantastic south of leigh road position makes this a property a unique oppportunity. A charming home with many original features.

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Pembury Road

Four Bedrooms £525,000

A fabulous and recently constructed four bedroom semi detached house located just off just off The Leas and within easy reach of the beach, Hamlet Court Road shopping facilities and mainline railway station giving direct to Fenchurch Street. The accommodation is spread out over three floors and includes a spacious entrance hall, cloakroom and westfacing lounge.

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Esplanade Gardens Westcliff on Sea

Five Bedrooms £950,000

An outstanding five bedroom detached family home located in this enviable position within the chalkwell hall catchment and just minutes walk of the beach. This beautiful home is spread out over three floors and boasts two separate reception rooms, a luxury fitted kicthen/family toom, three bathrooms south facing garden balcony and plenty of off street parking, so an immediate inspection is essential.

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Grasmere Avenue Hullbridge

Five Bedrooms £675,000

Exceptionally spacious five bedroom family detached home situated in this most desirable location in Hullbridge and being with proximity to local shopping facilities. The property boasts spacious living accommodation with five ground floor reception rooms, sweeping in and out driveway, South backing rear garden and pool. We strongly recommend an early inspection to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer.

01268 748 428









Jacks Close Wickford

Four Bedroom £425,000

This exceptional four bedroom detached family residence situated in this convenient location being within close proximity of excellent schools including Hill Top Infant and Beauchamp High school and with Wickford station serving Liverpool Street, London close to hand. The property provides master bedroom with en-suite and three further double bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, off road parking and garage. Viewing is highly recommended.

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Aldermans Hill Hockley

Three Bedroom £375,000

Fabulous three bedroom character chalet situated in this most desirable location being opposite Hockley Golf Range and walking distance to local shops and mainline railway station serving Liverpool Street, London. The property retains many fine original features and boasts exceptionally spacious living accommodation, off road parking and a garage.

01268 748 428



Arterial Road Leigh on Sea

Three Bedrooms £249,995

This three bedroom family home situated in this most convenient location being within close proximity to local shopping facilities, bus routes and A127. The property provides spacious living accommodation with garage to rear. Viewing is highly recommended.

01268 748 428



Ely Way Rayleigh

Four Bedrooms £425,000

Fabulous four bedroom detached family home situated in this most convenient location being within close proximity of local schools and shopping facilities and with Rayleigh Station serving Liverpool Street, London close to hand. The property provides spacious living accommodation and off road parking to front and integral garage.

01268 748 428



Broad Oak Way Rayleigh

Three Bedrooms £310,000

Situated close to Rayleigh town centre this semi detached three bedroom house has been well maintained and is presented in good decorative condition. Fitted kitchen and modern bathroom with a lounge and dining room. Lawned garden with patio to the rear plus off road parking and garage.

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London Road Wickford

Three Bedrooms £599,995

Delighted to offer for sale this three bedroom detached bungalow set in this semi rural location with excellent rail and road links, shopping, schools and recreational facilities close to hand. The property benefits from beautifully landscaped gardens measuring approximately 1/2 an acre and offers extensive parking and double garage. In addition the property provides spacious living accommodation with the benefit of a 22' lounge stunning Edwardian style conservatory, luxury kitchen/breakfast room and 2 bathrooms. Viewing is highly recommended to see what is on offer here.

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Maitland Place Southend on Sea

Four Bedrooms £479,000

A lovely four bedroom detached family home in an idylic setting. An extremely well presented home offered for sale for the first time in 28 years. There are two large reception rooms, a modern kitchen, bathroom and en suite. Further benefits include a secluded rear garden, ample parking and a garage.

01702 538 244







Yarnacott Thorpe Bay

Two Bedrooms £300,000

Guide Price £300,000-£310,000 No onward chain. A pretty bungalow deceptive, two double bedrooms with a 50ft south facing garden, large driveway, garage and extension potential subject to planning permission. Located on this highly sought after development.

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Frobisher Way Southend on Sea

Three Bedrooms £289,995

A three bedroom detached house with a luxurious interior, stunning kitchen and bathroom on a popular north shoebury location. Viewing is essential to appreciate this home with a beautifully manicured garden.

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Beechmont Gardens

Three Bedrooms £295,000

Character home with three generous size bedrooms, large garden and within close proximity of major rail links and London Southend Airport. A bright and airy three bedroom home is located in a convenient location. West backing garden measuring some 60ft and great extension potential subject to the usual consents.

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Tyrone Road Southend-on-Sea

Four Bedrooms £665,000

A pretty four bedroom detached family home in a stunning road. On a west backing plot - 95ft garden with great scope to extend, subject to the usual consents. Essex Countryside are delighted to bring this lovely family home to the market for the first time in 44 years.

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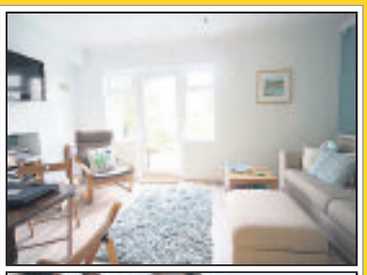


Thorpe Bay Gardens

Four Bedrooms £1,395,000

Premiere seafront residence. This four bedroom detached family home with a view that is second to none. Exceptional four bedroom detached executive family home situated in the most desirable road in Thorpe Bay overlooking a pretty green and Seafront and within short walking distance to Thorpe Bay Tennis Club and within easy reach of Thorpe Bay station and Golf Club. Large family living accommodation along with a grand hallway and a full terrrace are amongst some of the beautiful features in this home. Call today to make a booking to view this stunning property.

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Two bedroom ground floor flat with lovely garden £199,995

Exceptional and immaculate ground floor purpose built two bedroom flat with a lovely rear garden situated in a popular and convenient location of Westcliff on sea, walking distance of Chalkwell Park and Station. The property offers a spacious lounge, good size fitted kitchen, luxury bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating. KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. ETL5401



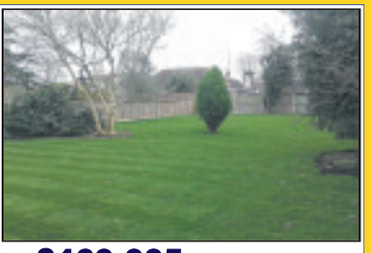
MONTAGUE COURT APARTMENT FOR THE OVER 55's £149,995

A rare opportunity to acquire at a most realistic price this spacious top quality ground floor apartment for the over 55's, situated within walking distance of local shops, the sea front and Westcliff station.This apartment is unique in as much as it is situated on the ground floor with direct access to a private patio area and the attractive communal gardens. Ref etl5413



Stylish two bedroom flat just off Leigh Broadway £274,995

Refurbished purpose built flat situated in the heart of Leigh-on-sea, close to the Broadway, Old Leigh Town and Leigh Station. Keys are available for viewing. TWO BEDROOMS GARAGE AVAILABLE FOR RENT & RENT FREE UNTIL DECEMBER 2017 LUXURY BATHROOM, OPEN PLAN LOUNGE AND LUXURY FULLY FITTED KITCHEN GAS C/H DOUBLE GLAZING SUPER LOCATION IN THE HEART OF LEIGH-ON-SEA

Leigh-on-sea £469,995

We have pleasure in offering for sale this large detached three double bedroom family home - READY FOR OCCUPATION BY MARCH 2016. The property occupies an impressive 40' x 160' SOUTH BACKING plot with an impressive 40' x 90' SOUTH FACING REAR GARDEN. En suite shower room to master bedroom, stunning 28'1 x 21'1 open plan lounge, dining room and kitchen, superb lounge with vaulted ceiling, 14' x 13' dining area, new fitted kitchen, luxury ground floor bathroom, KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. Ref ETL5389

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Town & Country

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Probate Sale - Two bedroom house with 60' south facing rear garden, Leigh £230,000

This property is being sold on behalf of a corporate client. It is marketed subject to obtaining the grant of probate and must remain on the market until contracts are exchanged. As part of a deceased's estate it may not be possible to provide answers to the standard property questionnaire. Please refer to the agent before viewing if you feel this may affect your buying decision. Ref. Etl5404



DETACHED CHALET, CLOSE TO LEIGH BROADWAY £495,000

Ready for occupation after February 2016. Accompanied viewings are available now. Large garden, new driveway/ parking area, three/ four bedrooms, large lounge, new luxury kitchen/ diner, new luxury bathroom, new wiring, plumbing etc. Very convenient location within walking distance of Chalkwell Station and Leigh Broadway.



Seafront flat with balcony & garage £289,995

Keys are available to view this beautifully refurbished first floor purpose built flat situated on the cliffs at Westcliff on Sea with lovely Easterly views of the Estuary towards Southend Pier and beyond. Westcliff station, beach and Cliffs Pavilion are all within walking distance. This superb flat comes with two bedrooms, a spacious lounge leading out to a LARGE BALCONY, new luxury kitchen, LARGE GARAGE and secured residents parking.

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Chalkwell **£975,000**

** 5 Bedrooms
** 3 Bathroom, and utility room
** Close to Seafront and Station
** 2 Reception room & study

** Period Features
** Kitchen/Family room
** Office/Garden Room
** Keys held for viewings





Westcliff **£180,000**

** 2 Bedrooms
** Ground Floor Flat
** Just Refurbished
** New Kitchen

** own Garden area
** Close Southend Hospital
** Early Viewing Advised
** Gas Heating

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS





Westcliff **£995 pcm**

** Close to seafront
** 2 Bedroom second floor apartment
** Balcony
** Allocated Parking

** Lift
** Estuary Views
** Available Now
** Fitted Kitchen with appliances





Westcliff **£1250 pcm**

** Penthouse apartment
** 2 Bedrooms
** Superb Accommodation
** Lift

** Allocated Parking
** Balcony
** Close to Prittlewell Station
** Call now to view





Westcliff **£1250 pcm**

** 4 Bedrooms
** Excellent condition
** 3 Reception Rooms
** Family Bathroom

** Attractive Garden
** Working tenants only
** Available now
** Early viewing advised





Rochford **£825 pcm**

** Purpose Built
** 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
** Modern Throughout
** En suite to master bedroom

** Allocated parking
** Working tenants only
** Close Rochford Square
** Available Now

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ROCHFORD £99,995

Ground floor studio apartment close to Rochford Station, lounge, bedroom area/dining room, bathroom, kitchen, entry phone system, communal gardens & parking, no chain

Retirement Home







RAYLEIGH £200,000

Superb 2 bedroom ground floor apartment just off Rayleigh High Street, modern fitted kitchen, luxury bathroom, lounge directly onto communal gardens, parking area, care line system, no onward chain, well maintained throughout.

LAND with or without planning urgently required

Refurbished







RAYLEIGH £315,000

Refurbished 2 bedroom bungalow in favoured location just off Bull Lane being within easy reach of High Street Shops, spacious hall, lounge/diner, new kitchen & bathroom, double glazed windows, new floor coverings, off road parking, 80' rear garden, must be viewed internally, no onward chain

1.5 Acres







SOUTH FAMBRIDGE £795,000

Stunning New England style 3 bedroom home set in quiet Village location with superb views over countryside, 1.5 acres 3 reception areas, quality kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 40' loft room, well maintained throughout

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Darren Emmett: darren@stgeorgehomes.co.uk

B&B Sales

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NEW ON MARKET



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £315,000

* Located Within the Conservation Area
* Within 1/2 a mile of Southend Central Train Station, Southend High Street & Southend College
* 4 Bedroom End Terrace House
* Lounge/Diner to Front With Bay Window
* Ground Floor 3pce Bathroom
* 3 Bedrooms at First Floor
* Separate WC at First Floor
* Further Bedroom & 3pce En-Suite at Second Floor
* Off Road Parking for 2 Vehicles



SOLE AGENTS



DAWS HEATH £950,000

* Cleverly extended and beautifully presented detached family residence
* Sought after Cul de Sac enjoying uninterrupted farm views to rear
* Two en-suites plus family bathrooms
* Balcony off master suite
* Three reception rooms, five bedrooms
* Large galleried landing
* Contemporary kitchen/breakfast room
* Landscaped south westerly garden





SOLE AGENTS



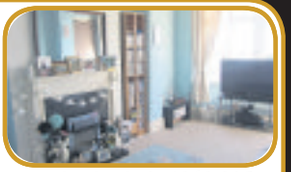
THUNDERSLEY £329,950

* Much improved and extensively upgraded & extended 3 Bed character home
* Located in popular turning within King John School catchment
* Upgraded bathroom and cloakroom
* Substantial lounge/diner & separate study/media room
* Extended and re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
* Various out buildings
* Maintained to high standard throughout
* EPC Band D



NEW ON MARKET





LEIGH-ON-SEA £249,995

Two Bedroom Ground Floor apartment, estuary views, stones throw away from Chalkwell Station, close to Leigh Broadway, no onward chain, new 99 year Lease, own rear garden, kitchen/ Breakfast Room, viewing advised

NEW ON MARKET





HADLEIGH £160,000

Popular McCarthy & Stone built development, one bedroom ground floor apartment, 3pce shower room, fitted Kitchen with integrated appliances, south facing lounge, on site warden & 24hr Careline assistance, communal residents lounge, kitchen & garden

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BASILDON £1000 pcm

* Beautiful Apartment
* Two Double Bedrooms
* En suite To Master
* Fitted Kitchen With Appliances
* Lounge With Juliette Windows
* Gas Central Heating
* Ideally Situated For Town Centre
* Allocated Parking
* Offered Unfurnished - Fees Apply
* Energy Efficiency Band B









LEIGH ON SEA £1595 pcm

* Large Character 3 bedroom semi detached house
* Situated in the most sought after Marine Estate
* 2 Large Double bedrooms and 1 Small Double/large single,
* Double Shower room
* Utility Alcove for Washing Machine & Drier
* Lounge with Open Fireplace and Wood Flooring,
* Dining room with French doors
* Lovely Fitted Kitchen with Range Cooker,
* Garage & Off street Parking
* Energy Efficiency Band E





EASTWOOD £1100 pcm

* Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow
* Large Lounge/Diner
* Fitted Kitchen with Oven & Hob
* Three pce Bathroom with Shower Att
* Two Double Bedrooms
* Garage
* Gas Central Heating
* Double Glazed
* Avail January
* Energy Efficiency Band E



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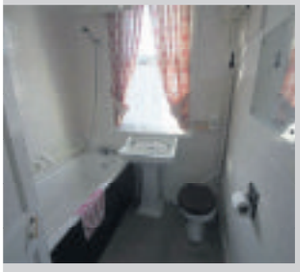
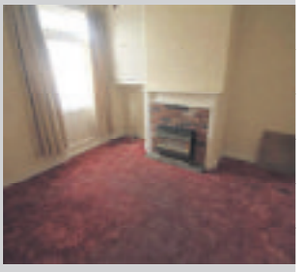
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Westcliff On Sea £230,000

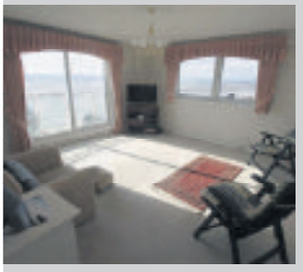


Three bedroom end of terrace family house situated within a sought after location of Westcliff. The property benefits from the majority of double glazing along with west backing rear garden. The property requires some general refurbishment which is reflected in the asking price.

Westcliff On Sea £265,000






Sorrell are favoured with instructions to offer for sale this two bedroom fifth floor marine apartment offering superb extensive estuary views over the estuary. The property benefits from South facing sun balcony and is situated along the prestigious Westcliff Parade. The apartment has a welcoming lobby area and two lifts to all floors along with on site care taker. The property also benefits from full double glazing and underfloor electric heating.

Southend On Sea £725 pcm



TWO MONTHS RENT as a deposit required for this newly refurbished and converted apartment. Being situated on the ground floor is this attractive apartment offering spacious accommodation. Open plan lounge and kitchen incorporating fitted kitchen with four ring integrated gas hob with oven and grill under and stainless steel extractor fan, plumbing and recess for washing machine and upright fridge/freezer, one double bedroom, bathroom/wc with attractive white suite comprising panelled bath with mixer tap and shower attachment, further independent shower over the bath with curtain and rail, pedestal wash hand basin, close coupled wc, attractive tiling. Allocated off street parking for one vehicle. Full double glazing and gas central heating. Suffolk House is situated within a sought after location of Southend, close to all amenities. No housing benefit. No pets. No smokers

Rochford £55 pcm



Garage to rent £165 per quarter. Oxford Road, Rochford. Call for further details.



£12,000 PER ANNUM RETAIL UNIT TO LET BENFLEET

Ground Floor Shop measuring approx 752 sq ft with kitchen, toilet with car parking to rear, previously occupied as greengrocers.



£6,750 PER ANNUM RETAIL UNIT TO LET LEIGH ON SEA

Lock up shop currently trading as a barbers shop with storage and WC facilities. Fixtures and fittings by further negotiation.



£7,500 PER ANNUM RETAIL UNIT TO LET WESTCLIFF ON SEA

The property consist of a main sales area, corridor leading to an office, kitchen/wc and rear storage. Situated on the London Road.



£8,000 PER ANNUM STORAGE / OFFICE TO LET WESTCLIFF ON SEA

Two storey brick built building with ground and first floor offices, store area to ground floor and parking to front.

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Well if you are at an age where you have bought your existing home, even if you do have a mortgage, if you have owned this property for some time you should by now have some equity (the value of your property less the mortgage still owed) in the property.

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WESTCLIFF 349,000

Character Semi Detached House. 3 Bedrooms. Large Lounge/Diner. Kitchen. Bathroom/wc. Garage and Carport. Footing in place for extension for Garage with bedroom and bathroom over. EER E



CHALKWELL HALL ESTATE £135,000

Excellent Second Floor Retirement Apartment. Lounge/Diner. Bedroom. Shower Room Kitchen. Communal Lounge, Laundry Room and Garden. Resident parking. EER B



LEIGH £525,000

Delightful, Character, Semi Detached House. Sought after area. Convenient Leigh Station. Three Bedrooms. Lounge. Dining Room. Fitted Kitchen. Garage. Parking for Boat, Caravan or additional vehicles. Recommended. EER E



LEIGH £299,950

Immaculate Semi Detached Bungalow with large garden. Large Lounge. Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room. Sun Lounge. 2 Double Bedrooms. Bathroom/w.c. Space to Build Garage. Recommended. EER.D.



LEIGH £350,000

Detached Chalet Bungalow. Sought after position convenient for Chalkwell station. Lounge/diner. 2/3 bedroom. (3rd Bedroom/Recept. Room.) Garage.



LEIGH £345,000

Character Semi Detached House. 3 Bedrooms. Lounge. Dining Room. Kitchen. Parking.

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Balance family budget with bargain Insignia

By Jon Smith

THE Vauxhall Insignia has been around for eight years now, but continuous development and a facelift in 2013 have kept it fresh and fighting – and it remains seriously good family value.

One of best models to go for from the range is the Sports Tourer SRI Nav with new "whisper" diesel 1.6-litre engine, offering the combined increased practicality of an estate with miserly economy.

True to its nickname the latest engine is much quieter than older Vauxhall diesels.

In fact, this ecoFLEX unit has a degree of smoothness and refinement that puts it at the helm of the current crop of oilburners.

With a capacity of 1,598cc you tend to question whether the task of hauling a sizeable five-seater estate is too great.

But with a generous 236lb/ft of torque the Vauxhall has a big heart. It's a responsive unit that reacts quickly to the throttle so long as revs are kept flowing above the 2,000rpm mark and real-life driving sees averages of 45-48mpg.

Running costs are reasonable with emissions of 114g/km and an official government average of 65.7mpg.

Performance is brisk rather than rapid with 62mph coming up in 11.4 seconds and a maximum of 124mph, and the SRI is fitted with lowered and beefed up sports suspensions.

Cornering and ride quality are possibly its weakest areas – nothing unsafe or shocking – but there's a lack of fluency in the ride and no real incentive to push hard through corners because of a lack of general athleticism.



VALUE: Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer SRI Nav 1.6 CDTI

Of more interest, though, to most people interested in this sector will be load space.

Despite quite a high load deck, the Insignia can swallow up 540 litres of cargo with rear seats in place and up to 1,530 litres when they are folded down (these split 60-40).

These stats are generous enough, but trail rivals such as the VW Passat and Ford Mondeo slightly, and are a longer way behind market leader, Skoda Superb, which absorbs more than 2,000 litres.

Under the boot floor, there's a small shallow area where you can hide away valuables.

The cabin uses good quality materials and has a sensible, easy-to-operate design.

A cleaner console incorporating standard sat nav is both easier to read and smarter.

The central oddment box is on the small size, but there are generous door pockets and a good-sized glove box.

The steering wheel is adjustable for both height and reach, and the driver's seat has multiple adjustments, but I wasn't able set it quite high enough for my ideal position.

Both driver's and passenger's seat squabs are made to extend.

Those in the rear have decent head and legroom and it is quite possible to seat three abreast if required.

When just two are on board, use can be made of a central armrest which includes two cup holders.

This car was fitted with optional 19-inch alloys, which look great but probably impair the ride standard a tad.

It also had front and rear parking sensors at £450.

With a basic price tag of £23,724, the SRI Nav 1.6 CDTI is undoubtedly a real bargain for a family driver with an eye on the budget.

FAST FACTS

Price: £23,724
Mechanical: 134bhp, 1,598cc, four-cylinder diesel engine driving front wheels via six-speed manual gearbox
Max speed: 124mph
0-62mph: 11.4 seconds
Combined mpg: 65.7
Insurance group: 17
CO2 emissions: 114g/km
BiK rating: 20%
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

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What is the position?

We are looking for an exceptional individual who can become part of our commercial division – an area we are currently expanding. It is an exciting time at the *Yellow Advertiser* as we build on our community relations through our 11 print editions and our new-look website. The individual would be expected to develop new business by cold calling and building relationships with prospective clients.

What are the responsibilities?

There are many responsibilities in this role. While you will be expected to approach prospective clients you must be prepared to dig in and roll up your sleeves when the going gets a little tough.

Who would be the ideal candidate?

Someone who is highly motivated, keen to learn and keen to earn. While the role is for a full time telephone sales executive, we would be happy to fill the role with two part-time employees, making it ideal for busy mums who would like to get back into their career.

Do you need any experience?

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What else are you looking for?

Good command of the English language and good writing skills are a must, as well as good listening skills as calling potential clients will be a big part of your day. Computer literacy is also essential.



Ad Manager Vicky Burles

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How should individuals apply?

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HELEN petite auburn haired attractive single female, OHAC, likes quiet nights in, cinema, WLTM tactile male with GSOH for dates/chats. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412171**

MICHELLE very lonely single mum, 25yrs, looking for male friend to enjoy nights in, good conversations and hopefully leading to more. Looks/age not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412175**

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412327**

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 411779**

SAM young slim brunette, pretty, sporty, loves dancing, walking, music, eating out, travel, looking for N/S male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412309**

KAREN an attractive blue eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking likeminded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412057**

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTM not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412315**

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412049**

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTM likeminded caring, happy male. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412169**

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412319**

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412053**

JESS 24yr old bubbly single mum looking for caring genuine male to spend quality times in or out, looks unimportant but kind heart essential. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412317**

KATHY easy going curvy tanned nurse looking for relaxation and fun times with appreciative uncomplicated male, any age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 411893**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412055**

PASSIONATE honest slim blue eyed blonde, 39yrs, likes nights in/out, looking for affectionate male, any age to spend adult fun times. Interested? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412173**

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SIMONE bossy dominant female seeking submissive male to show me good times, treat me the way I deserve and spoil me. If you can handle me get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 412179**

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 411865**

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTM similar fun genuine guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 411537**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broad-minded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 409259**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 409109**

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 407955**

DEBBIE 38 blonde attractive size 12, enjoys keeping fit all the fine things in life, seeking intelligent witty male for fun times only, no commitment. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 411877**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 409419**

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MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 6358 Box No: 411871**

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SOUTHEND STUN LEAGUE LEADERS

Football

Southend United 3
Burton Albion 1
Brian Jeeves reporting from Roots Hall Stadium

SOUTHEND United boss Phil Brown described his team's performance as "massive" after goals from Anthony Wordsworth, Tyrone Barnett and substitute David Mooney secured an impressive 3-1 victory over Sky Bet League One leaders Burton Albion.

Blues promotion push has hit the buffers of late following successive defeats on the road at the hands of Scunthorpe United and Bradford City. Brown made two changes to the side that slumped at Valley Parade, bringing Barnett and Jack Payne back to the starting 11.

League leaders Burton Albion arrived at Roots Hall in patchy form, but still four points clear of Wigan Athletic in second and the chasing pack.

Nigel Clough's Brewers could also boast an impressive record against the Blues, having won seven and drawn three of the 13 previous meetings between the clubs.

But it was the Blues who made a lightning start. Payne's probing run and shot was blocked and Wordsworth picked up the pieces, firing a rasping low drive beyond Brewers goalkeeper Jon McLaughlin and sending the home fans into raptures.



PLEASED: Phil Brown

Burton looked for a quick reply, but the unmarked Phil Edwards nodded over from close range after Mark Duffy had picked him out.

Barnett was next to try his luck, skipping past a couple of Burton challenges, but much to the crowd's anguish his effort was off target.

Meanwhile, Tom Naylor's deflected strike had Blues keeper Daniel Bentley scrambling across his goal, but fizzed the wrong side of an upright.

Burton settled and started to ask the sterner questions. Adam Barrett reacted quickly to stub out the threat of Stuart Beavon, while Robbie Weir tested Bentley with a crisp strike from distance.

But just before the break Burton drew level in controversial circumstances. Beavon's deflected strike deceived Bentley for his seventh goal of the campaign, however much to the crowd's anger, the ball appeared to go out of play in the build-up. Clearly rocked by the goal, Blues started the second period on the back foot.

Barrett did well to head clear Duffy's driven centre, while both Weir and Butcher were a whisker away with stinging strikes from distance.

But Blues weathered the storm and regained their advantage in spectacular fashion. Shrewsbury loanee Barnett will rarely hit a sweeter strike, rifling pasted McLaughlin and into the top corner of the net from 25 yards.

Blues turned up the heat and Ben Coker tested McLaughlin's resolve with a dipping dead ball effort, and in the final minute substitute Mooney made the game safe.

Burton defender Shane Cansdell-Sherriff was caught by Sam McQueen, and the Southampton loanee slipped in the Blues' Irish striker who finished with aplomb.

Speaking after the match, a delighted Brown said: "I think a marker was put down tonight.

"We've got the league leaders in town, and it's not a case of 'little Burton' – it's a case of 'resilient Burton'.

"We've played against them seven or eight times since I've been at the football club. They are always fairly tight games.

"One-all at half-time, we're bemoaning our luck because of the way they got the equalising goal. A lot of people said the ball was out of play.

"But two or three of our players stopped at that moment, and consequently the lad Beavon stuck the ball in the back of the net.

"Now the dynamics of the half-time team talk changes."

Brown continued: "It was a tight game, but it was a little bit of quality in front of goal I think that has won it."

Scorer of the Blues' stunning second goal, Barnett, said: "Obviously coming off the back of two defeats, it was important we got a result today. The lads dug deep and we've done just that."

On his goal he concluded: "I realised I had no pressure on me so thought I'd have a shot, it was nice to see it go in."

Southend United now face a tricky League One trip to Vale Park where they face Port Vale on Friday, February 27 (7.45pm).

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, Ben Coker, Anthony Wordsworth, Michael Timlin, Jack Payne (Sam McQueen), Will Atkinson, Cian Bolger, Noel Hunt (David Mooney), Tyrone Barnett (David Worrall), Luke O'Neil, Adam Barrett (Capt) Subs not used: Adam Thompson, Ted Smith, Stephen McLaughlin, Gary Deegan.
Burton Albion: Jon McLaughlin, Phil Edwards, Shane Cansdell-Sherriff, John Mousinho (Capt), Robbie Weir, Stuart Beavon, Calum Butcher (Callum Reilly), Damien McCrory, Tom Naylor, Mark Duffy, Mason Bennett (Lucas Akins) Subs not used: Stephen Bywater, Darius Charles, Marcus Harness, Anthony O'Connor, Tom Flanagan
Referee: Paul Tierney
Assistants: Nigel Lugg
Fourth Official: Andy Woolmer
Attendance: 6,503

Set for Reliability Ride

Cycling

THE SEG's 75 Reliability Ride, organised by the South East Essex Members' Group (SEG) of the Cycling Tourists' Club (CTC) charity, takes place on February 28.

This established 75-mile event is considered by many to be the first "real" Essex cycle ride of the year.

Starting from Wickford, there are three start-time options – 8.30am (seven-hour ride), 9am (six-hour ride) and 9.30am (five-hour ride).

A popular annual cycling event, the SEG's 75 is used by some of the Essex racing community as one of the first warm-up rides of the year, and typically attracts more than 130 riders – despite the weather, which is usually very cold and windy.

This year, the route starts and finishes at the Wickford Café Restaurant, The Broadway, SS11 7AD (map reference OS Sheet 178, TQ747936).

It progresses through country lanes to Great Bardfield and back via a series of five checkpoints.

This event has been organised and run under the rules of the CTC – the UK's national cyclists' organisation – which has been protecting and promoting the rights of cyclists since 1878.

For details about the CTC and the events and services it offers, call 0844 736 8451 or visit www.ctc.org.uk.

Riders can either join the CTC or another cycling club for insurance purposes. SEG's 75 participants usually belong to either a racing club or are members of the CTC and thus insured through their club.

The entry fee is £6 for postal entries, or £7 "on the line".

More details are available at www.essexcycling.co.uk/events.

Semis stage for junior tournaments

ESSEX'S end-of-season County Cup Final schedule is approaching across the various competitions and age groups, with the draws being made for the semi-finals of both the Essex Saturday Junior Cup and the Essex Sunday Junior Trophy.

Despite its long history, the Saturday Junior Cup will have a new name etched into it this season, with none of the sides competing in the last four having previously reached the final.

Each of the beaten Essex Saturday Junior Trophy finalists from the last two campaigns are still involved and keen for success this season.

Mid Essex League club Sandon Royals, beaten in 2014's Trophy final, will host Iona while Pro-Athletic, runners-up in the Trophy in 2015, have also been drawn at home as they face Chingford Athletic. The climax for this competition is booked for Billericay Town FC's New Lodge home on Wednesday, April 20.

There will be a Sceptre Sunday League derby in the semi-finals of the Sunday Junior Trophy as Westcliff United host Leigh United Reserves, while Fox & Fiddler, of the Colchester & District Sunday League, have been drawn at home to Notley from the Braintree & North Essex League.

Those ties will see sides contest for a place in the final at Brightlingsea Regent FC's North Road ground on Sunday, April 10.

Essex Saturday Junior Cup Semi-Finals (March 12): Pro-Athletic v Chingford Athletic, Sandon Royals v Iona.

Essex Sunday Junior Trophy Semi-Finals (March 6): Westcliff United v Leigh United Reserves, Fox & Fiddler v Notley.

Vortex Hammers sign Swedish ace

LAKESIDE Vortex Hammers have snapped up Swedish racer Dennis Jonsson to fill the newly-created No.8 role in their 2016 squad.

The Vortex Hammers have moved to bring in Jonsson, the son of former World Champion Per, for the position which enables him to replace any rider in the main body of the side during the season.

Non-league round-up

Romford have six appeal

By Brian Jeeves

ROMFORD were the region's big hitters after hammering Redbridge 6-1 in their Ryman League One North encounter at Oakside.

Joe Scott grabbed a brace for the Boro, while Tom Potter, Nick Reynolds, Tom Anderson and Jason Dicks completed the rout. Charlie Portway replied for the hosts who find themselves mired in a relegation dogfight.

Thurrock were also in decent form as goals from Ronnie Win (2), Junior Baker and Remi Sutton saw off Great Wakering Rovers at Ship Lane 4-1. Eljay Worrall replied for the villagers. Michael Spencer (2) and Luke With helped Barkingside to a 3-2 win over Witham Town at the Cricklefield Stadium, while Lewis Godbold and Jack Barham were among the goals as Heybridge Swifts edged out Tilbury 2-1. Oliver Hanlon with the Dockers consolation.

AFC Hornchurch beat Wroxham 3-0. George Purcell was once again the Urchins hero, hitting another two while Tambeson Eyong completed a comprehensive victory for the hosts. Elsewhere Brightlingsea Regent went down 3-0 at home to Phoenix Sports.

In the Ryman Premier Division Canvey Island picked up maximum points from their trip to Harrow Borough. Steve Sheeham and Lawrence Yiga on target for the Gulls in a 2-1 win. Bradley Fortnum-Tomlinson hit a stoppage time equaliser as Grays Athletic picked up a point from a 1-1 draw at Lewes.

The big game of the day between promotion-chasing East Thurrock United and Bognor Regis Town at Rookery Hill ended in a tense goalless draw.

In the National League, Braintree Town were frustrated by the weather. The Iron's clash with Barrow at the Cumbrian's Holker Street ground was postponed due a waterlogged pitch.

Chelmsford City went down 3-2 to Margate at the Melbourne Stadium in the National South. Southend United loanee's Jack Bridge and Jason Williams (penalty) found the net for the Clarets.

Meanwhile Concord Rangers shared the spoils with Gosport Borough at the Aspect Arena, the final outcome 0-0.

Bowers & Pitsea continued to fly the flag for the Essex Senior League in the FA Vase. The Len Salmon Stadium club remained in the hat after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Hellenic Leaguer's Kidlington. Alfie Hilton, James Stevens and Lewis Manor all found the net as the hosts recovered from an early two-goal deficit.

The pick of the ESL action saw Barking thrash Sporting Bengal United 4-0 at Mayesbrook Park. High-flying FC Romania saw off Stansted 2-0 and there was a 3-1 win for Wadham Lodge at Waltham Forest.

Southend Manor picked up a1-0 win at Enfield 1893, and Hullbridge Sports edged out Sawbridgeworth Town by the odd goal in five at Lower Road.

In the ProKit UK Essex Olympian League, Newham United won their Premier Division clash with White Ensign 3-2. In Division One Basildon Town went down 2-1 at home against Canning Town, while in Division Two Rochford Town won 2-0 at Herongate Athletic and Catholic United picked up the points from a 2-1 win over Lakeside.

Upminster were winners in Division Three, beating Epping 1-0.

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